MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 MAY 1981

Lebanese Situation

Military Situation--Citing eyewitnesses, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian reinforcements have been sent to the Suhmur and Yuhmur areas of the southern Al-Biqa' valley, some 25 km from the Galilee panhandle, as well as to Kfar Tibnit near An-Nabatiyah. A Monte Carlo Radio report said two Syrian armored brigades entered the western and southern parts of the Al-Biqa' valley early on 7 May. Jerusalem radio, citing authoritative Jerusalem sources, said on the evening of 7 May that Israel has no information about Syrian troop movements south of the Az-Zahrani River. According to Voice of Lebanon, Israeli planes flew reconnaissance missions in the south during the day. INA, citing witnesses from the border strip, said Israel has deployed around 200 tanks and has installed nine long-range artillery batteries in the eastern sector of the Christian enclave.

Beirut radio said the capital and Zahalah were calm, while Voice of Lebanon reports said Syrian and Palestinian forces shelled Lebanese Army positions in Beirut during the afternoon of 7 May and the following morning. Beirut Radio said that new clashes broke out along the Beirut contact lines on 8 May and Voice of Lebanon said the firing brought all activity in the port to a standstill.

Habib Visit--Beirut Radio reported that special U.S. envoy Philip Habib met with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis early on 8 May. The previous day, QNA reported, Habib had traveled overland to Beirut from Damascus, to which he will return for a 2-day visit after 2 days in the Lebanese capital. According to Voice of Lebanon, former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un has sent Habib a letter that says the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon have turned into an occupation force, causing widespread and indiscriminate bloodshed.

Talks with Soviet Envoy--Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Damascus Radio reported. According to Damascus television, he later held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on the situation in the region. Korniyenko and Syrian Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur submitted a report on their consultations regarding the regional situation and Israeli moves in Lebanon, and the president expressed his satisfaction at the results of the consultations. AFP reported that Korniyenko also met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Asad, 'Arafat Meeting--Damascus Radio reported that President al-Asad and Foreign Minister Khaddam met with PLO leader 'Arafat and other Palestinian officials to discuss the results of 'Arafat's visit to several Gulf states.

Libyan Diplomacy--According to JANA, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned President al-Asad, affirming his country's support for Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement and people in the current crisis. Beirut Radio said Al-Qadhdhafi also sent a message to Lebanese President Sarkis. Earlier in the week Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki had delivered messages from Al-Qadhdhafi on the Lebanese crisis to Gulf and Yemeni leaders. At-Turayki met the Kuwaiti amir on 4 May, KUNA reported, and was received by the UAE leader the following day, according to the GULF NEWS AGENCY. On 7 May, San'a' radio reported, he met with the YAR president.

Progressive National Front Statement--The Syrian Progressive National Front issued a statement, broadcast by Damascus television, condemning what it termed the U.S.-Israeli campaign against Syria. Admitting that Syria has sent some "air defense units" to Lebanon to protect its soldiers after they were attacked by Israeli forces, it said the

United States was very disturbed by this defensive move, yet has for years tolerated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. Criticizing U.S. claims that the Soviet Union poses the main threat to the Middle East, the statement asserted that the Soviet Union is a friend to the Arabs, Syria and the Palestinians while the aggressive Israeli presence is the major threat to the area. The aim of the current U.S.-Israeli campaign against Syria, the statement said, is to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement, to stop moves toward Lebanese national accord and to strike at Syria's stand against imperialist-Zionist schemes in the region. The Syrian people, it concluded, will continue to confront aggression, fearing neither Israel nor the United States.

Libya

In a statement on the expulsion of Libyan diplomats from the United States, the Foreign Liaison Bureau denied that Libya supports international terrorism, as charged by the U.S. State Department. The statement, carried by JANA, said it is the United States that commits acts of international terrorism, while Libya supports those who suffer under imperialism and foreign domination but condemns acts of terrorism that take innocent lives. The statement termed a "flimsy allegation" the charge that Libya exports revolution, saying the spread of thoughts does not acknowledge borders. The real reason for the U.S. action, the statement continued, is that the U.S. administration is unable to acknowledge the growing desire of people to control their own destinies and get rid of imposed "custodianship." If the United States continues its hostile policy toward Libya, the statement concluded, the Libyan people will take action to confront it.

Saudi Arabia

At a press conference in Riyadh following talks with Saudi leaders, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky expressed his government's readiness to authorize the export to Saudi Arabia of any weapons the Saudis order from Austrian companies, SPA reported. Kreisky added that Saudi Arabia and Austria agree that the basis for a solution to the Middle East problem is recognition of the Palestinians' right to an independent state.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Two Iraqi MiG's were shot down over Abadan, Tehran radio reported, while Iraqi forces continued to shell Abadan, Hamidiyeh and Dezful, causing heavy losses and casualties. It also reported a dogfight over Marivan between an Iranian aircraft and two Iraqi MiG-21's in which the Iranian aircraft was damaged by an Iraqi missile. An Iraqi General Command communique carried by INA claimed two Iranian aircraft were shot down in the Susangerd region.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LOK SABHA RESCINDS GANDHI'S 1978 EXPULSION ORDER

BK071621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha today unanimously adopted a motion to rescind the resolution adopted by the previous Lok Sabha in December 1978 expelling Mrs Gandhi from the house. During the discussion lasting over 4 hours, and at the final adoption of the motion, the entire opposition except the Muslim League and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK] stayed away. Earlier, a motion was moved by B.R. Bhagat, Congress-U, after a 2-hour procedural wrangle and an opposition walkout. Speaker Balram Jakhar rejected various objections raised by the opposition members. Following this, the entire opposition except the Muslim League and the DMK and mover of the motion Bhagat walked out of the house in protest against the speaker's decision. Though Bhagat belongs to Congress-U, that party also dissociated itself with this motion. K.P. Unikrishnan, one of the general secretaries of the Congress-U, stated in the house that the party had nothing to do with it. Moving the motion, Bhagat said the resolution by which the Sixth Lok Sabha expelled Mrs Indira Gandhi was motivated by a spirit of revenge on the part of the Janata Party. It was based on a partisan decision of the privileges committee. The principles of equity and natural justice had not been observed in the action taken against Mrs Gandhi, R.K.Dhawan and D. Sen, former Central Bureau of Investigation director. Bhaghat aruged that the committee was wrong in extending parliamentary privileges to officers who were deemed to be in its service because they were collecting certain information from ministers. He also questioned the penal jurisdiction of the Sixth Lok Sabha to deal with matters of privilege relating to the earlier house.

RAO: DIFFERENCES WITH UK OVER ALMOST ALL ISSUES

BK071337 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] New Delhi, 7 May (AFP)--Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told Parliament today that Britain and India had differences on almost all important issues except on Palestine. Mr Rao, who was replying to questions on the recent visit of British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher to India, said: "Except this one matter, on all other important matters we only ended up by trying to understand each other's point of view." Mr Rao did not list the issues but they were understood to be Afghanistan, U.S. arms to Pakistan and the militarisation of the Indian Ocean. It was the first official statement by Mr Rao on the results of the talks held here between Mrs Thatcher and Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. Mr Rao said Mrs Thatcher had "stuck to her position and we had to put forward our point of view." On Palestine, he reported "considerable similarity" in the approach of India and Britain on the problem. They might not be identical but her views were "different from the approach of the U.S." and to that extent India found them "more in line with ours," he added. On the question of arms to Pakistan, Mr Rao said India had conveyed her concern, but Mrs Thatcher maintained that every nation had the right to protect itself. Mr Rao also recalled that the memoranda of understanding signed during Mrs Thatcher's visit concerned only economic and technical cooperation.

PARLIAMENT TOLD URANIUM RESERVES 'ADEQUATE'

BK071237 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] New Delhi, 7 May (AFP)--India has estimated reserves of about 67,000 tons of uranium which is considered to be adequate to meet the requirements of the country's currently envisaged nuclear power programme, Parliament was informed today. In a written reply in the upper house, Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, who is also in charge of the Department of Science and Technology, said that the bulk of the deposits occurred in Bihar State. There were indications that smaller deposits might exist in a few other states.

Meanwhile, C.P.N. Singh, junior minister for science and technology, informed the house that the Tarapur atomic power plant, near Bombay, worked only up to 49 percent of its total capacity during 1980-81 (April-March) because of uncertainties over enriched uranium supplies from the U.S.A.

In a written reply he said that owing to delays in the receipt of enriched uranium from the U.S.A., the power level of the plant had to be reduced for stretching the fuel cycle.

PATRIOT URGES QUICK DECISION TO END TARAPUR ACCORD

BK080735 Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Apr 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Time for Decision"]

[Text] We are passing through a testing time under severe U.S. pressure. After the recent haggling between American and Indian officials on the issue of nuclear fuel supply to Tarapur, we are now told by Senator James A. McClure that the dialogue should go on. He claims to be a friend of India by virtue of having succeeded in incorporating an "exception" proviso to the U.S. Non-Proliferation Act. Under the provision, the president has the authority to make exceptions wherever he thought such exceptions were necessary. In practice, the clause has been used to delay supply and cause an acute sense of insecurity. The kindly senator wants to keep us hooked so that we continue to wriggle and ask for mercy. U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has decided to visit us this summer, perhaps after having arranged matters to his satisfaction in Islamabad. It is time we released ourselves from the nuclear agreement and asked our scientists to go ahead with our programme without any interference from the United States.

We have not yet been told by the government what exactly happened at the talks held in Washington. But we have come to know from American sources that the supply of enriched uranium will be terminated though India will continue to be bound by certain provisions of the agreement, which the United States has been flouting. The United States would like to retain the right to keep Tarapur under inspection and also veto reprocessing of the spent fuel. That is, the Americans will eat our share of the cake and keep their own. This is an amazing demand and no self-respecting people can accept it. Once a regular supply of the nuclear fuel is terminated the United States cannot have the right of inspection and we will be free to utilise the spent fuel in whatever way we decide. We are not members of the non-proliferation club, and we retain our freedom to use the spent fuel even to manufacture nuclear weapons. Our decision to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is our free decision, which we can alter in a changed situation. The United States has decided to offer to Pakistan military aid amounting to $2 billion in spite of the well-known fact, acknowledged by U.S. officials, that Islamabad is about to produce atom bombs. The United States in these circumstances has certainly no business to tell us what we should do with the spent fuel which must belong to us after the termination of the Tarapur agreement. The Government of India should tell Parliament and the people what has been discussed in Washington and what is our position in regard to the future.

The U.S. policy concerning Tarapur and military aid to Pakistan is a continuation of Mr Henry Kissinger's policy of "tilt" against India. Those who refuse to see this and harp on friendship with all and malice towards none are well-meaning people only in appearance. To warn the country against the U.S. strategy in this region is not to recommend hostility towards our neighbours or their trans-Atlantic patron. It is in our national interest to see clearly how things are shaping so that we are in a position to work out a realistic foreign policy instead of living in a fool's paradise.

SPECIAL EMISSARY OF KING HASSAN ARRIVES ON VISIT

BK080827 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Ahmed Osman, special emissary of King Hassan of Morocco, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 2-day visit to Pakistan. On his arrival in Islamabad, he said he would deliver a message to President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq from King Hassan and exchange views with him on various matters of mutual interest, especially the regional situation. He will also apprise President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq of the current situation in northwest Africa and the Middle East. The special emissary said Pakistan and Morocco had deep and friendly relations and that these relations between both fraternal Islamic states would be strengthened with time.

Ahmed Osman, who is a former minister, is accompanied by two members of the Moroccan parliament. High officials of the Foreign Ministry and the charge d'affaires of Morocco in Pakistan welcomed them at the airport.

GUARDIAN INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER AGHA SHAHI

BK021607 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has said that Pakistan and the United States have agreed that their new relations will be based on the principles of sovereignty and equality and that the policy of adherence to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic conference adopted by Pakistan will be honored. In an interview with the London newspaper, THE GUARDIAN, he reiterated that Pakistan was not seeking military aid from the United States but rather assessing the possibility of purchasing some military equipment.

Agha Shahi said that there was no justification for India's expressing concern if Pakistan acquired some defensive equipment. The Indian Government had ordered about $10 billion worth of military equipment in the last 3 years and the defensive equipment that Pakistan would acquire during the next 5 years would be only 20 percent of that amount. He said that Pakistan did not want an arms race with India, nor was it willing to create any danger for India--or even capable of doing so. He regretted that talk of war had circulated in India only because Pakistan wanted to purchase military equipment.

The foreign minister hoped that India would understand Pakistan's need to replace some of its obsolete arms with new ones. He said that during the Indian external affairs minister's visit to Pakistan next month, specific talks would be held on the possible effects of U.S. arms sales to Pakistan on Indian-Pakistani relations.

In reply to a question, Agha Shahi said that the agreement being negotiated with the United States would be for 5 years, with congressional approval for funding being needed every year. He made it clear that Pakistan was not willing to conclude an agreement with the United States on a bilateral or mutilateral basis.

Agha Shahi said that an agreement of 1969 existed between both countries but Pakistan was not willing to give it the shape of a formal agreement by securing congressional approval for it.

TEHRAN ASSAILS AWARD OF PAPAL MEDALS TO REAGAN

GF080745 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 6 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Pope's Present to Reagan"]

[Excerpts] Jesus Christ's commandment "strive to provide people with social justice and security" is not being heeded. On the other hand, Catholics are demanding that this commandment be obeyed. Obeying this commandment requires that a helping hand be extended to poor and oppressed people and that they be supported against the cruel. Adherence to Christ's principles--acting in accordance with God's commandments--means that one should endeavor to eliminate cruelty, discrimination and colonialism. Any kind of reconciliation or agreement with the cruel exploiters constitutes deviation from this sacred path.

Regrettably, however, a number of moves by Catholic leaders have caused their followers to feel that they have taken certain steps that are incompatible with the line they are expected to pursue. One example is as follows: AFP has reported from the Vatican that during his visit to Italy, General Haig was received by the pope. In his audience with General Haig, the pope presented him with three medals for President Reagan. The move has created grief among all people who cherish humane sentiments and strive for justice.

The medals in question are generally awarded to people who have performed some valuable service to humanity or who deserve to be honored for their exemplary stand or behavior. Regarding the presentation of the medals, any individual who enjoys freedom of thought may ask the following question: What has Reagan done to deserve this award? Is the pope unaware that the arms manufactured in the United States are being used to kill the poor and innocent people of El Salvador? Does Reagan's stand and behavior deserve any award at all? Does the support Reagan is extending to the world's most reactionary and cruel regimes--which exploit the blood of their people and savagely choke every voice that is raised against them--qualify Reagan for such an award? Does the protection given to the [word indistinct] deserve any support at all?

Taking the pope's stand as an example, we can say that from among the two groups in Christianity, the oppressors and the oppressed, the pope has chosen to support the former.

It should not be forgotten that in the struggle between right and wrong, certain individuals and forces are appointed to divine and humanitarian positions to side with those who pursue a just cause against injustice. Misuse of such divine and humanitarian positions will lead the world's oppressors to regard those who hold them as being in the service of Satan rather then in the service of God and the people.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON 'PLOT' TO DISMEMBER LEBANON

LD072056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 81

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry--date not given]

[Text] In recent days the regime occupying Jerusalem, in line with the implementation of sinister plots hatched by Zionism and international imperialism, has once again escalated its attacks on southern Lebanon. Successive attacks on southern Lebanon and on the holy places continue as before, with the puppet, mercenary, internal forces collaborating with the Jerusalem-occupying forces in killing defenseless Lebanese people. Furthermore, the Lebanese Phalangists and the mercenary Sa'd Haddad are taking part in these ruthless killings.

The reactionary leaders in the region are witnessing these killings of the Lebanese Muslims without uttering a word; they have become oblivious to supplying aid to the deprived and oppressed Lebanese people.

In these days of blood and fire encompassing Lebanon, the forces of the infidels are entertaining the idea of dismembering this country. This is an old and dangerous plot which is about to be implemented through a plan envisaging the establishment of an international force in Lebanon, a plan being whispered by the occupying forces and the international aggressors. Once this is achieved the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] will be driven out of the region to be replaced by forces dependent on imperialism and Zionism. There is no doubt that this would result in the dismemberment of Lebanon.

Although the Muslim Iranian nation is engaged in a war imposed on it by international imperialism through the lackey and mercenary Saddam's regime, under no circumstances can it remain blind to what is happening to Muslims all over the globe; nor can it remain silent about the oppression to which the peoples are subjected.

Consequently, we hereby inform the entire world:

1. We praise the attempts being made by the oppressed Lebanese people to safeguard the independence and freedom of the country against the superpowers and reactionary forces as well as against domestic elements. We share the aspirations of the deprived Lebanese Muslims.

2. We support the ADF stationed in Lebanon as well as the nations that have risen in support of the oppressed Lebanese people and that are helping them to achieve their sublime goals.

3. We support the struggle launched by the Lebanese Muslims and the fraternal Palestinians residing in that country against oppression, force and aggression. We point out that struggles under the humanitarian Islamic precepts will indubitably culminate in the victory of the Muslims, the liberation of Jerusalem and the defeat of the infidel forces.

4. We strongly condemn the plan calling for the creation of a buffer zones around occupied Palestine, designed by U.S. imperialism and about to be implemented by its mercenaries Begin, As-Sadat and Shah Husayn. We are resolutely certain that such security, as desired by the Zionists, will never be realised inside or outside the occupied territory.

5. We condemn any thought of the dismemberment of Lebanon and call on peoples throughout the world, particularly the world Muslims, to rise against this plot, which is about to be implemented by Zionism and imperialism. The oppressed people of Lebanon must remember that theirs is the final victory, for it is God's tradition, and divine traditions are unalterable.

Hoping for the victory of Islam over blasphemy,

[Signed] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry

SEIZED VESSEL DISCUSSED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

LD072142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, a meeting was held this morning at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Raja'i and attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretaries. At the meeting the questions of the seized Kuwaiti vessel as well as the press and cultural attaches abroad were discussed. The meeting lasted 6 and 1/2 hours.

KUWAITI AMBASSADOR HOLDS TALKS WITH RAJA'I AIDE

LD072138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran this afternoon had talks with Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, deputy prime minister and political affairs advisor. During this meeting, discussions took place pertaining to the Panamanian seismographic vessel detained by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also to relations between the Governments of Iran and Kuwait.

TEHRAN STREET RENAMED TO HONOR BOBBY SANDS

GF071840 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The Tehran municipal government has decided that the street west of the British Embassy in Tehran should be renamed Bobby Sands Street in honor of the brave Irish revolutionary.

RAJA'I INSTRUCTIONS ON USE OF TERM 'PERSIAN GULF'

GF071530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i issued instructions today insisting that the correct, historical name of the Persian Gulf be used in all official correspondence, publications and media. He emphasized that the Persian Gulf is the historical name and has been approved by the United Nations. He called for adhering to his name in all international circles and UN documents and maps.

RAJA'I, RAFSANJANI TRAVEL TO QOM TO HOLD MEETINGS

LD080730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i left this morning for Qom to visit the holy shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh, may God's peace be upon her, and to meet with leading ayatollahs and other spiritual leaders.

BANI-SADR TOURS FLOODED AREAS IN KHORASAN 7 MAY

GF071331 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived in (Berjend) today on his inspection tour of flooded cities and villages in Khorasan Governorate. After visiting (Berjend), President Bani-Sadr went to a village outside Qa'en. He talked with residents there and asked questions about their problems. He then inspected (Karkhat) as part of the tour.

MAHDAVI-KANI APPOINTS CENTRAL PROVINCE SUPERVISOR

LD080156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, Mr Mahdavi-Kani, the interior minister, has appointed Mr Mohammad Kazem Seyfian as supervisor for the Central Province Governorate-General.

BEHESHTI ON CRITICISM OF PUNISHMENT BILL

LD071250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 81

[Interview with Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, by unidentified Central News Bureau correspondent on 6 May--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Beheshti, a roundtable discussion is due to be held in the auditorium of the Justice Ministry on 11 May concerning a study of the punishment bill [layehel-ye qesas]. What is the purpose behind this meeting and roundtable discussion?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the publication of the punishment bill by the press, a number of persons, individuals and, at times, certain groups, wrote articles in the newspapers criticizing this bill. Sometimes they even published declarations and letters. At the beginning of this year a number of judges who came here because of the New Year raised this problem and raised one of these instances. So I explained the matter to them and, mostly, they were convinced. It was asked why we shouldn't give these explanations for the benefit of all. This issue was raised and the Supreme Judicial Council decided that, at the auditorium on Monday afternoon, 11 May, we should hold a meeting and that these judges and other people who have criticisms should come along and elect two representatives and that there should also be two persons on behalf of the Judicial Council. Since the law ought to be approved by the Majlis, two persons from the Majlis' Judicial Commission and another two from the Council of Guardians have been invited to take part, should they accept this invitation, so that the articles of this bill can be debated. Of course, as usual, the moment we announced that we wished to have a debate, a lot of these gentlemen pulled back. As you may well know, some of these people from these groups, who are Muslim lawyers, have written: "We have said what we have to say, so why should be bother to come and speak?"

What is strange about these people is that they always demand free discussions, but the moment the groundwork is prepared for a free discussion they run away. This is how it is with one of these groups. It issued a ramshackle statement in MIZAN which proceeded to publish it in an incomplete manner. At any rate, we are prepared to answer all questions and by the beginning of the next week it will become clear whether they wish to come along and have discussions or whether they will run away the moment a debate is mentioned.

[Question] A newspaper connected with one of these groups has published a document about you to the effect that you wrote a letter to the foundation of the oppressed to give some individual 15 million tumans for some reason or another. Could you tell us something about the accuracy of this issue?

[Answer] These hypocrites and these antipopular and anti-God groups, no matter how many times they are exposed, do not feel shame. I shall now reveal this matter for the nation so that these people may once again be exposed and so that the nation will know that these people are doing nothing but disseminating lies and spreading provocations and are nothing but the enemies of right and the people. This is what happened: Two years ago when the foundation for the oppressed was set up, people informed us that development steps should take place in Kordestan. Of course, this was a view which we ourselves voiced when we returned from Kordestan on 21 March 1979, when we went to Kordestan in connection with the incidents there and expressed the opinion that something should be done for these people and that these deprived people should be served. A number of young men said: We are prepared to go there to begin development work. So please help us. At that time the provisional government was responsible for doing this work, but did not do so. We told the foundation for the oppressed to, if possible, place some money at their disposal so that they could go ahead and do something for the meek people of Kordestan.

These people were a number of pious young engineers: Messrs Tabesh, Mojtahedi and others. The foundation said: "Introduce these people and although we have no money we shall try to secure some money for them as a loan which will subsequently be paid by the foundation. These people went to Qorveh in Kordestan and worked out a project to help the rural population of the hamlets around Qorveh. They prepared their plan estimating that they could develop several villages with 15 million tumans and meet their needs. So I wrote to the foundation. At that time I was engaged in work at the Revolution Council. I wrote to the foundation and it was to give these people 15 million tumans, but of course it was not able to give this sum in full. I do not remember quite how much it gave but possibly something in the area of 10-12 million tumans. Afterward the young engineers themselves gave a detailed report on their work to the foundation. Now these hypocrites write that no one knows where this money was spent! The frustration of their plans must have affected them.

At the beginning of the revolution these people stole a great many shares from the Pahlavi Foundation, which was later to become the Alavi Foundation, and sold them to banks. One of them, while selling these shares, was arrested in one of these banks. These people cannot believe in anything but treachery and lies. Tell these hypocrites to give up their animosity to justice and the people and to stop rumormongering, telling lies and spreading poison! This money was spent in the villages around Qorveh in Kordestan on the deprived people. Those who spent the money were two Muslim engineers together with their colleagues Mojtahedi and Tabesh. They have reported on their works to the foundation. Perhaps the hypocrites have asked why engineers have not given the report on their work to these hypocritical, lying and antipopular organizations, because these people believe themselves to be the owners and masters of this country. These people should know that our heroic nation has studied their methods, has recognized their hypocrisy, duplicity and lies and shall not be deceived by them.

Once again may I remind the younger generation to get to know this lying organization more than ever so that you may never be deceived by these people who today, exactly at a time when the self-sacrificing combatants of the path of Islam are creating epics on the battlefields and gaining glory, are adding grist to the mill of the enemy--the United States, the mercenaries of the United States, Saddam and all other enemies. Be aware and awaken our younger generation! May God be your guide.

Lawyers on New Law

NC071735 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 7 May (AFP)--The association of Iranian lawyers today urged that the parliamentary bill designed to bring back the "eye-for-an-eye" principle of justice should be scrapped. The bill "would foster hate and the spirit of vengeance", the lawyers said, adding that it would result in a return to "tribal law".

The 199-article bill was devised by the high justice council, and approved by the Cabinet. It is directly inspired by Islamic law, in accordance with the principle of retaliation--an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

If the bill becomes law, the heir of a murdered person will be allowed to execute the murderer, and a maimed victim will be allowed to inflict a similar wound on his aggressor.

"The philosophy of such a law is the spirit of vengeance," the association said in a press release today.

The law would also bring back "class justice", with rich men being able to buy off their sentences, while poor men faced retribution, the association charged.

"The law restores the right to private vengeance", and makes everyone a "potential hangman," Abdolkarim Lahiji, a leading member of the association, said here.

POLICE RULES ON RESIDENCY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

LD071350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued an announcement concerning entry and residency in Iran of foreign nationals:

The announcement says that any foreigner wanting to reside in Iran must go to the local police department within 8 days after arrival in order to obtain a residency permit. On the basis of the amendment to article 8, concerning the residency of foreign nationals in Iran, the owners of private or public buildings and owners or those occupying private houses are to report to the local police or gendarmerie personnel within 24 hours on the arrival of a foreigner should they be staying with them overnight or longer.

Written details on the foreign nations, together with a copy of the respective permit, must be sent to the Tehran alien residency offices located at Professor Negatollahi Street at the beginning of Azar Shar Avenue. This information should also be sent to the local police or gendarmerie offices outside Tehran and a receipt obtained. In addition, the announcement says that offenders will be prosecuted.

AFP: 300 ARRESTED AFTER MAY DAY CLASHES

NC071636 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 7 May (AFP)--Iranian authorities have arrested more than 300 people following May Day clashes between right and left-wingers which caused six deaths and about 100 injuries, the newspaper ETTELA'AT reported today.

The paper quoted sources at the head of the security forces as saying that those arrested included "Maoists" and "counter-revolutionary hooligans" claiming to belong to the religious Hezbollah (Party of God) movement.

The clashes occurred at a meeting of the Marxist-Leninist Popular Feda'iyan organisation.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 495 CITES BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD071906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 81

[Communique 495 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The mighty forces of the army of Islam, continuing their just fight against the forces of mercenary Saddam, increasingly stepping up action at the fronts and being the first to do battle with the enemy, are daily acquiring further capabilities and are treading the path along which all subservience vanishes, the blossoms of independence and freedom burgeon forth and the sacred aspirations of the Islamic revolution come to fruition.

According to dispatches we have received, at 0720 today, 7 May, an encroaching Iraqi MiG was hit by our antiaircraft batteries and shot down in the vicinity of Abadan's Station No 7. Subsequently, the mercenary enemy opened heavy arms fire over Abadan's residential districts, destroying 14 houses and once again demonstrated its helplessness at engaging the valiant army of Islam in manly combat.

Saddam's criminals yesterday once again hit the Hamidiyeh region with surface-to-surface missiles and bombarded Abadan and Dezful with artillery fire. In those regions our compatriots suffered heavy losses and casualties.

The fighting units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran deployed in the Abadan region retaliated by opening fire on the positions of the Iraqi aggressors and succeeded in destroying 4 enemy tanks, 2 trenches, 1 machinegun emplacement, 2 cannons, several assembly trenches, 2 concrete bunkers, 6 ammunition tents and several assembly buildings and killed or wounded at least 50 enemies of Islam.

In the Dezful region, our forces opened mortar fire on enemy positions and, while defending our positions, set ablaze one enemy ammunition dump and killed a number of aggressive personnel of Saddam's army.

In addition, the fighting patrol squads of the ground forces were dispatched to the fronts in the Dezful area at various hours and achieved ceratin successes. Thanks to these operations, an enemy minefield was discovered and the mines were removed, one enemy ammunition dumps and two military vehicles of the Iraqi soldiers were destroyed and some enemy servicemen were killed.

Meanwhile, thanks to our artillery units opening fire on one of the Dezful fronts, two Iraqi tanks were damaged and one machinegun and two ammunition dumps belonging to the mercenaries were destroyed.

In the Khuninshahr region, exchange of fire continued and the valiant naval personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed two enemy trenches and a number of enemy personnel in the western sector of Khuninshahr.

On the Allaho Akbar front, thanks to artillery fire opened by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2 enemy tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 1 mechanical shovel and 2 vehicles were destroyed and more than 15 of Saddam's mercenaries were killed or wounded.

In western Susangerd, thanks to fire opened by our heroes, one enemy munition dump and one mortar emplacement of Saddam's army units were destroyed and two enemy servicemen were killed.

Throughout the western fronts an exchange of fire continued between our heroic forces and Saddam's soldiers. And in the Ilam region, thanks to fire opened by our combatants, three enemy trenches, one observation trench, one vehicle, one medium 106-mm rifle and one ammunition tent were set ablaze and destroyed. Eighteen encroaching servicemen were killed. One bulldozer was also put out of action during there operations.

On a hill in Qasemabad, near Gilan-e Gharb, our artillery opened fire on a group of enemy troops engaged in digging trenches and inflicted some casualties.

In the Marivan region a dogfight ensued between one aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and two enemy MiG-21's; as a result of a missile fired by the enemy, our aircraft suffered minor damage. Following this dogfight, the encroaching MiG's disappeared and our fighter aircraft landed safely at its base.

Another three Iraqi soldiers gave themselves up to the army of Islam and sought asylum in Marivan yesterday.

On 5 May, 18 of our combatants from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the lofty rank of martyrdom on the country's southern and western fronts and received the mercy of the Almighty.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

FOREIGN REPORTERS VISIT KERMANSHAH FRONT

LD071248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, 30 foreign reporters who had gone to Kermanshah Province to prepare reports and photographs of the battlefronts in the west of the country visited various parts of Kermanshah.

During the visit by the reporters to the western fronts, a well-informed military source announced that 20 out of 64 captured enemy tanks have been returned to the scenes of the battle against the enemy following their overhaul. The deputy commander of the 81st Armored Division, in an interview with PARS said: The operations to overhaul the equipment captured from the enemy or that which has become obsolete continues with all haste behind the fronts. The technical staff uses all its knowledge to the utmost to repair this equipment. Talking about the situation at the fronts he said: The situation at the battlefronts is completely satisfactory and the enemy is constantly leaving his positions and trenches and retreating. The deputy commander announced that Zahab, Qaraviz, Bazi Deraz and the Imam Hasan Bridge have been cleansed of the filth of Saddam's mercenaries. According to recent reports, artillery firing from heavy and light weapons in Zahab, Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb continued yesterday and in Zahab two enemy vehicles and their occupants were destroyed by the fire of Islam's fighters.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS TENSE SITUATION IN MASHHAD

NC071644 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The situation in Mashhad continues to be critical. Once again strong clashes broke out between opponents of Khomeyni's regime and revolution guards. Reports from the city indicate that the night before last bloody clashes between the people and revolution guards continued until late at night at various points in the city. More than 12 people were wounded; fortunately, none was killed.

Reports state that during the past [words indistinct] week the situation in the city was tense and that the Islamic Republic of Khomeyni canceled airline flights to Mashhad until further notice.

At present, Mashhad is one of Iran's most (?tense) cities. During the past week, all the steps taken by Khomeyni's regime to crush the people and the wave of their demonstrations have been fruitless. The residents of Mashhad are showing increasing solidarity before the increased activities of Khomeyni's agents.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS ON 5 MAY TEHRAN CLASHES

NC071623 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Four people were killed during clashes between revolution guards and kiosk owners in Tehran. Reports state that the day before yesterday bloody clashes broke out at 1300 between revolution guards and kiosk owners in the area of Vali'ahd Square to the vicinity of Takht-e Tavus Avenue. The kiosk owners were attacked by the guards, who were bent on closing down the kiosks. During the clashes, which continued until well after midnight, a revolution guard and three kiosk owners were killed and many kiosks were set on fire by the guards.

The kiosk owners, who have joined the ranks of those facing unemployment following Khomeyni's sedition, have opened up these businesses to ensure a source of income. However, they have been a target of threats and attacks by Khomeyni's agents.

The recent clashes, which resulted in the death of three vendors and one guard, were some of the bloodiest clashes to have taken place so far between the two groups.

NVOI RAPS VOICE FOR USING WESTERN-INFLUENCED NEWS

TA072003 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 7 May carried a commentary entitled: "One Should Not Be in Harmony With the West's Mass Media." It said: Those who consistently follow up the newscasts of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in connection with foreign news, cannot but express regret because the major part of the foreign news of the Voice of the Islamic Republic, especially regarding Afghanistan, consists of news that is fabricated by the news agencies of Western countries, and above all by U.S., British, French and other news agencies. In some cases the managers of the foreign news department of Tehran radio have even gone further than the news fabricators of the Voice of America and the BBC and have presented these fabrications as facts to the people. What has caused the regret, astonishment, and in many cases the protest of our homeland's free and clearsighted people is that the propaganda organization of our liberated country, especially the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, could be in line with the rumor-mongering organizations of the West, particularly when broadcasting reports concerning our neighboring country, Afghanistan. Why should individuals in the upper echelons of the Islamic Republic support the murderous Afghan bands merely because these bands have placed the name of Islam upon themselves? The Government of Afghanistan has repeatedly stretched the hand of friendship toward our country and has declared its readiness to revive and consolidate ancient ties of friendship and cooperation. However, unfortunately, some of our country's officials have not only ignored this call, but are fanning tension between the two countries as much as possible, and are interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan by supporting the hirelings of imperialism through the radio and propaganda. The people justly consider the approach of some of our country's officials, particularly the method of activity of the country's propaganda organization regarding Afghanistan, as below the dignity of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. They consider the continuation of this approach as being to the detriment of our nation's revolution and its gains. The people justly demand that the government adopt a realistic approach toward our friendly and next-door neighbor, Afghanistan, and not be in harmony with the propaganda organizations of regimes such as Pakistan, Oman and As-Sadat.

NEPAL

POLICE FIRE AT LABORERS IN BIRATNAGAR, KILL 5

BK031654 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 3 May 81

[Text] Katmandu, 3 May (AFP)--At least five labourers were killed and ten others sustained injury in a police firing today at Biratnagar, 280 kilometres southeast of Katmandu.

The jute mill labourers were on strike since Wednesday last demanding better pay at par with other jute mills at Biratnagar.

The official version however claimed that the police had to resort to four rounds of firing in the air to bring the crowd under control.

The official source added, "The labourers had charged the police with iron rods and brickbats, leaving the police with no option but to fire."

This incident, barely 5 days before the general election, has obviously vibrated the atmosphere in this political hotbed and the home town of B.P. Koirala.

SRI LANKA

PRIME MINISTER VISITS PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA

For reportage on the visit of Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa to the Philippines and Indonesia, see the 28 April through 1 May Philippines section and 4 May Indonesian section and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

MP'S QUESTION PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ON ASEAN

BK061114 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando said in parliament yesterday that statements made by the prime minister in the Philippines that Sri Lanka was willing to join the five nation ASEAN was in accordance with the government policy. He was replying to questions raised by the opposition.

Asked whether Sri Lanka had given up its policy of nonalignment, Fernando said there was absolutely no departure from that policy. He said the United National Party, in fact, had been the first party in Sri Lanka which had advocated nonalignment as far back as 1948.

The acting foreign minister also rejected an opposition description of ASEAN as a neocolonial, pro-American setup. He said it was a group of nations which had got together to further their economic interests. Sri Lanka was willing to join the group not to serve the interest of any foreign power but primarily in its own interest.